



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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COUNCILS COMMITTEE

Board of Education Conference Room
Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor
Thursday, July 12, 2007
12:30 – 2:15 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Joetta Yarbrow, Chair
Beverly Cosley
Denise Hobbs
Chey Korvandi-Geledar
Dana Lesley
Christy Little
Jerry Maness
Diane Neighbors

Staff Present

Richard Kennedy, Director of Field Operations
Dana Cobb
Kathy Daniels
Rodger Jowers
Robert Smith
April Swoner
Norma Tolliver
Elaine Williams
Diane Wise
Gwendolyn Wright

Committee Members Absent

Sidney Bynum
Michelle Crowley
Sue Pilson
Colonel Robbins
Barbara Holden

I. Welcome and Introduction

Committee Chair Yarbrow convened the meeting at 12:45 pm.

All knew each other, so there were no introductions.

II. Approval of February and May Minutes

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (MANESS) AND SECONDED (NEIGHBORS) TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2007 AND MAY 2007 COMMITTEE MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

III. HHS: Rescue and Restore Nashville Coalition - Richard Kennedy

Kennedy reported the Federal Department of Health and Human Services has an effort underway to raise awareness and provide services for people around the issue of human trafficking (handouts were given to all present). TCCY has been asked to join as a partner agency for their efforts and collaborate with them in Tennessee. HHS has scheduled a “kick-off” July 17th and TCCY will have representation there. Kennedy requested TCCY sign in support and send a letter to the director of the program, Martin Newton. Kennedy provided the list of numerous agencies involved in Tennessee.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (COSLEY) AND SECONDED (COBB) THAT TCCY SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

IV. Upper Cumberland Regional Coordinator Update - Richard Kennedy

Kennedy reported Kathy Daniels has now taken the position as Southeast Regional Coordinator. She has coordinated both the Southeast and Upper Cumberland regions during her position transition. The register for the Upper Cumberland position is open and will be open for another 10 days. Interviews will be scheduled and the position filled as soon as possible.

V. Town Hall Meetings – Robert Smith and Gwen Wright

Smith reported the June 7th East Tennessee Town Hall meeting was a success. There was a wonderful turnout, with great speakers. The legislature was still in session; therefore, no legislator’s were present. Cindy Perry, Dr. Freida Outlaw, Trudy Hughes, and Knox County District Attorney Randy Nichols gave presentations. Mental health consumers were also present. To help gain involvement with the meetings, he emphatically suggested gaining the cooperation of a large local mental health system in each region.

Wright reported the Memphis/Shelby County Town Hall was well attended by 70 people. Two legislators from Memphis, Lois DeBerry and John DeBerry, and Representative Sherry Jones from Nashville, chair of the SJR799 subcommittee, were present. Several presentations were given relating to mental health issues, early childhood, school age children, juvenile court system, child welfare system and trauma. Mental health consumers and informed parents whose children participate in various programs were also present. Jerry Maness was present at the meeting and related to the committee his experience of what he learned. Tim Goldsmith also attended.

Yarbro reported Goldsmith has now joined the SJR 799 steering committee. They will meet next week.

VI. First Focus Grant Collaboration – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy reported TCCY was not selected for the First Focus Grant. The Tennessee Primary Care Association was selected to receive the grant funding with Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth as a collaborator. The Tennessee Primary Care Association hosted a meeting approximately three weeks ago. There were 60 people present who will help with the SCHIP reauthorization. A presentation was made by staff from the Georgetown Public Policy Center around “messaging.” Two other advocacy areas the grant cover are family economics and education.

Kennedy reported the Tennessee Primary Care Association has a software package called “voter voice.” On its website, you can access pre-written letters that can be emailed to the representatives for all Tennessee districts. They can track numbers for outcome data.

VII. Review of Regional Coordinators’ Activities

Information regarding the individual Councils and Coordinator activities was presented by Rodger Jowers, Southwest Council; Diane Wise, Northeast Council; Kathy Daniels, Upper Cumberland Council and Southeast Council; April Swoner, Mid-Cumberland Council; and Dana Cobb, Northwest Council. Gwendolyn Wright, Memphis/Shelby County Council; Elaine Williams, South Central Council; and Robert Smith, East Tennessee Council will present their reports at the Full Commission Meeting. Kathy Daniels has facilitated both the Southeast and Upper Cumberland regions during her position transition.

VIII. Coordinator Discussion

Kennedy reported he and Linda O’Neal recently attended a Child Welfare League of America Southern Executive Leadership Conference in New Orleans. The focus of the training was organizational change. From information learned, this may be a good time to evaluate what the coordinators are doing individually and what the councils are doing as a whole. There are certain non-negotiable areas, i.e. facility monitoring and staffing councils, but we may need to consider whether there may be ways to continually improve our advocacy efforts. The challenges coordinators share recruiting council membership and council leadership seemed to be a universal theme at this conference.

IX. Other Business

This will probably be Jerry Maness’ last meeting. Jerry has served three consecutive three-year terms and is therefore, ineligible to be reappointed.

Yarbro reported she is still receiving positive feedback about CAD.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Minutes Submitted by:

Richard Kennedy
Director of Field Operations

Minutes Approved by:

Joetta Yarbrow
Councils Committee Chair

H DRIVE/SHARED FILES/COMMISSION/MINUTES FOLDER